

668

government and the street for the maintenance of public order. Its jurisdiction parallels that established for the Public Security Sub-Station, thus enforcing a double-check on residents. The Public Security Sub-Station is responsible, in the main, for the maintenance of public order and the suppression of counterrevolutionaries.

The Mediation Committee⁷³ is a "mass" organization established both in the city and in the village. Its function is to mediate disputes and to propagandize government statutes, and, provisionally, to exercise "judicial" power in the village or street for misdemeanors not covered by the Peoples' tribunal. Although the committee acts as a third part in a dispute, it represents the government's view and emphasizes the technique of self-criticism.

668

698•

Communist control in the city is much more rigid and forceful than in the village. With the spread of Communist domination over many organizations, factories, and other professional organizations, Communist domination is strengthened. Although public security sub-stations play a leading role in enforcing government decrees, the importance of other organizations, notably the procuratorates and the peoples' courts, should not be minimized.

668

73. People's Daily, March 23, 1954, p. 1.

reduction of appellant cases, and the concentration of judicial authority in the lower courts; (b) the adoption of adjudication committees and the administration of law by collegia; (c) the review and periodic check of non-appellant cases by the higher courts and the practice in the lower courts of seeking instructions from and reporting to the higher courts; (d) the conduct of circuit hearings; (e) the use of People's assessors, a system similar to the Western jury system, which includes representatives from various people's organizations; (f) the use of trials for cases involving disputes among Party members and workers in factories, offices, and enterprises; and (g) such new techniques as oral inquiries and on-the-spot investigations and the establishment of People's reception rooms and mediation committees as means of enlisting mass support as well as for the intimidation of the masses.

3. The Third Stage After judicial reform, further effort was concentrated upon the establishment of the new system and the training of new cadre to fill the vacancies which resulted from large-scale liquidation of the former workers. In 1953, as a result of the second session of the All-China Judicial Conference, a directive was issued calling for the immediate training of 200 to 500 judicial workers and for the drafting of a training plan in each region.¹³ Effort was made to strengthen judicial authority at the lower levels and to set up special courts in

13. People's Daily, Sept. 10, 1953, p. 1.

the industrial and mining centers as well as courts with jurisdiction over railways and waterways. During 1953 and 1954, however, the reorganization was limited to the establishment of model special courts in Central-South China. As of September 1954, only eight railway courts and one waterway court had established in the whole nation.¹⁴ No report is available on the establishment of other special courts. Nevertheless, because of the rising number of cases involving economic matters in the nation (90,000 cases in 1953),¹⁵ the attempt to strengthen judicial work in industry was to be further intensified in 1955.

The introduction of new methods for the administration of law in the courts centered upon the establishment of People's tribunals¹⁶ on a broader and more permanent base. The organization and functions of the People's tribunal remained the same. Whenever it was necessary, they were to hold circuit hearings in villages and towns. In brief, the tribunal was a mobile trial court, a suppressive instrument to be employed in villages which the county People's court could not reach.

Special attention has also been given to the use

14. Ibid., September 4, 1954.

15. Ibid.

16. Report of progress in 1953 in People's Daily, May 20, 1954, p. 1; Enlightenment Daily, April 17, 1955, p. 2.